

Ark. Gov. Doesn't Want to Regulate Food April 19, 2004

LITTLE ROCK (AP) -- Gov. Mike Huckabee said Wednesday that government shouldn't become the "grease police" and regulate unhealthy snack foods.

"I think that is absolutely the worst approach that does not change people's lifestyles and behaviors," Huckabee said in his office. "It only angers people and creates conflict."

Huckabee has lost 100 pounds since last June and said his weight loss has had much more impact than any legislation could.

"My problem is if the government becomes the grease police and starts telling you 'I'm sorry, that hamburger is unauthorized by your government,' where does it stop," he said.

Huckabee said the marketplace will adjust as consumers change their habits and demand healthier foods.

"I think it's completely wrong to say sue the fast food industry because people are obese," he said. "McDonald's doesn't make people fat, people make themselves fat. I haven't had a french fry since last June, but I'm not going to sue McDonald's if I break down one day."

Huckabee said he'd rather offer incentives to people for choosing healthy lifestyles. He plans to feature that approach in his new program, "Healthy Arkansas," which he said he would unveil within the next month.

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